

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 3, 4, 14 and 15 as follows and cancel Claims 2, 5, 6, 13 and 19 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein:

1.-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended An image pickup apparatus ~~according to claim 2~~ including an iris mechanism for changing an amount of light with which an image pickup element is irradiated by changing an aperture diameter, and a filter unit, having a single density, for changing an amount of incident light, said image pickup apparatus being capable of changing between a first mode of photographing for recording a plurality of frames and a second mode of photographing for recording one frame in accordance with a predetermined action, said image pickup apparatus comprising:

a control unit for controlling said filter unit so that said filter unit is controlled in photographing in the first mode so as to be positioned at a plurality of positions including a position at which said filter unit partially covers an aperture diameter of said iris mechanism, and is controlled in photographing in the second mode so as to be positioned at one of a position at which said filter unit covers all over the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism and a position at which said filter unit withdraws entirely from the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism,

wherein said control unit performs drive control of said filter unit so that said filter unit is driven from the position at which said filter unit withdraws entirely from the aperture

diameter of said iris mechanism to the position at which said filter unit covers over all of the aperture diameter when the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism is changed so as to be opened in the second mode and the aperture diameter reaches a predetermined aperture diameter.

4. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus ~~according to claim 2,~~  
including an iris mechanism for changing an amount of light with which an image pickup element is irradiated by changing an aperture diameter, and a filter unit, having a single density, for changing an amount of incident light, said image pickup apparatus being capable of changing between a first mode of photographing for recording a plurality of frames and a second mode of photographing for recording one frame in accordance with a predetermined action, said image pickup apparatus comprising:

a control unit for controlling said filter unit so that said filter unit is controlled in photographing in the first mode so as to be positioned at a plurality of positions including a position at which said filter unit partially covers an aperture diameter of said iris mechanism, and is controlled in photographing in the second mode so as to be positioned at one of a position at which said filter unit covers all over the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism and a position at which said filter unit withdraws entirely from the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism,

wherein said control unit performs drive control of said filter unit so that said filter unit is driven from the position at which said filter unit covers over all of the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism to the position at which said filter unit withdraws entirely from the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism when the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism is changed so

as to be closed up in the second mode and the aperture diameter reaches a predetermined aperture diameter.

5.-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A control method ~~according to claim 13~~, of an image pickup apparatus capable of photographing with changing between a first mode for recording a plurality of frames and a second mode for recording one frame in accordance with a predetermined action, said apparatus comprising an iris mechanism for changing an amount of light with which an image pickup element is irradiated by changing an aperture diameter, and a filter unit, having a single density, for changing an amount of light input to said image pickup element by advancing and withdrawing said filter unit towards and from the aperture diameter, said method comprising:

a step of discriminating which of the first mode and the second mode is selected; and

a step of controlling said filter unit so that said filter unit is controlled in

photographing in the first mode so as to be positioned at a plurality of positions including a position at which said filter unit partially covers an aperture diameter of said iris mechanism, and is controlled in photographing in the second mode so as to be positioned at one of a position at which said filter covers over all of the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism and a position at which said filter unit withdraws entirely from the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism,

wherein said controlling step performs drive control of said filter unit so that said filter unit is driven from the position at which said filter unit withdraws from the aperture diameter of

said iris mechanism to the position at which said filter unit covers all over the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism, when the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism is changed so as to be opened in the second mode and the aperture diameter reaches a predetermined aperture diameter.

15. (Currently Amended) A control method ~~according to claim 13~~, of an image pickup apparatus capable of photographing with changing between a first mode for recording a plurality of frames and a second mode for recording one frame in accordance with a predetermined action, said apparatus comprising an iris mechanism for changing an amount of light with which an image pickup element is irradiated by changing an aperture diameter, and a filter unit, having a single density, for changing an amount of light input to said image pickup element by advancing and withdrawing said filter unit towards and from the aperture diameter, said method comprising:

a step of discriminating which of the first mode and the second mode is selected; and

a step of controlling said filter unit so that said filter unit is controlled in

photographing in the first mode so as to be positioned at a plurality of positions including a position at which said filter unit partially covers an aperture diameter of said iris mechanism, and is controlled in photographing in the second mode so as to be positioned at one of a position at which said filter covers over all of the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism and a position at which said filter unit withdraws entirely from the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism,

wherein said controlling step performs drive control of said filter unit so that said filter unit is driven from the position at which said filter unit covers over all of the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism to the position at which said filter unit withdraws entirely from the aperture

diameter, when the aperture diameter of said iris mechanism is changed so as to be closed up in the second mode and the aperture diameter reaches a predetermined aperture diameter.

16.-19. (Cancelled)